

efficient alternative energy sources is essential in developing a plan for our Nation's environmental and energy future. His tireless effort to ensure the promotion of renewable agricultural products has helped our country's environmental conservation efforts, and Mr. Holmberg's commitment to solving our Nation's energy challenges will ensure that new and innovative resources and technologies will continue to flourish.●

SHANNON ROVERS IRISH PIPE BAND: 75 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band for providing 75 years of entertainment. More than 500 individuals have played the pipes and drums of the Shannon Rovers Band. Currently, the band is made up of over 75 pipers, drummers and color guard members, and includes a student program with over 20 individuals actively learning the pipes and drums.

The band was organized in 1926 by a group of Irish immigrants, and was originally named the Shannon Rovers Fife and Drum Corps. The group was directed by Dan Hennessy and played for every Irish gathering in Chicago during the late 1920's and early 1930's. In 1932 the decision was made to switch from fife and drums to the "Irish Warpipe" or bagpipe. Thus, the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band was introduced.

In the 1930's the band performed for Presidential candidate Franklin Delano Roosevelt and has continued to play for Presidents and distinguished guests to this day, including Presidents Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, and Pope John Paul II.

The band's popularity has grown immensely over the years. The demand for them to play continues to grow in the Chicago land area, as well as across the Nation, and around the world. The Rovers continue to excite Chicagoans with performances at halftime of Bears games, leading the pre-race ceremonies at Chicago Motor Speedway, performing at the Celtic Fest, and at the Irish Heritage Center. They make an annual trip to Springfield, IL, for the Illinois State Fair and they also perform at countless rallies and dinners. The members of this group freely volunteer their time for all types of civic and charitable events.

Internationally, the band is a perennial contender in Ireland's Fleadh Cheoil, a world-class traditional Irish music event. The Rovers have placed first, second, and third in this prestigious competition.

The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band has accomplished much in the 75 years since its founding. It is my pleasure to extend my congratulations and thanks to this group for their decades of service and dedication to their music and to the people of Illinois.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-9221. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act relative to Section 514 grant program during Fiscal Years 1999 and 2001; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-9222. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Serbia; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-9223. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Board of Veterans' Appeals: Rules of Practice - Attorney Fee Matters; Notice of Disagreement Requirement" (RIN2900-AL25) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-9224. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Policy, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and a nomination for the position of Chairman, National Indian Gaming Commission, received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-9225. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Policy, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and the designation of acting officer for the position of Special Trustee for American Indians, received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-9226. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to India; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9227. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, transmitting, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to Germany and Russia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9228. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the Annual Report on the Proliferation of Missiles and Essential Components of Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons for the period December 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9229. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rights-of-Ways Under the Mineral Leasing Act; Timing of Approval" (RIN1004-AD55) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9230. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Permits for Recreation on Public Lands" (RIN1004-AD25) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9231. A communication from the Director, Cooperative and State Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to State Plans (revised)" (RIN1218-AB91) received on September 26, 2002; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-9232. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Civil Monetary Penalties" (45 CFR Part 672) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-9233. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of the Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oriental Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Areas" (Doc. No. 01-080-3) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9234. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of the Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gypsy Moth Host Material from Canada; Removal of Infested Areas in British Columbia, Canada" (Doc. No. 01-132-2) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9235. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of the Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change in Disease Status of Denmark Because of Exotic Newcastle Disease" (Doc. No. 02-089-1) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9236. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of the Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Texas (Splenic) Fever in Cattle; Incorporation by Reference" (Doc. No. 01-110-2) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9237. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of the Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imported Fire Ant; Approved Treatments" (Doc. No. 01-115-2) received on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9238. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and